



SENATOR HARRY REID, MAJORITY LEADER FIGHTING FOR NEVADA'S VETERANS



Senator Harry Reid has an established track record of standing up for Nevada's veterans. He has fought to provide veterans with the health care they need, including securing nearly \$600 million for the new Veterans Administration (VA) Southern Nevada medical center, and has fought efforts to dramatically increase TRICARE premiums. He has also provided the VA with increased funding to address infrastructure concerns, the backlog of claims, and the increasing health needs of veterans returning after fighting two wars for more than a decade. For veterans looking to complete their education, under Senator Reid's leadership, Congress expanded the G.I. Bill. Senator Reid has always been an advocate for Nevada veterans and will ensure that our commitment to service members does not end with their tours of duty.

HIGHLIGHTS OF SENATOR REID'S RECORD FOR NEVADA'S VETERANS

Improving Healthcare for Nevada Veterans:

- ★ Senator Reid Secured Funding for the Southern Nevada VA Medical Center and Outpatient Clinics Across the State
- ★ Senator Reid Has Rejected Plans to Dramatically Increase TRICARE Premiums
- ★ Senator Reid Helped Pass Legislation Extending Current TRICARE Physician Reimbursement Rates
- ★ Senator Reid Has Repeatedly Voted to Increase Funding for Veterans' Health Benefits
- ★ Senator Reid Worked Tirelessly to Expand Care for America's Wounded Warriors, Fix Shortfalls in Care at Walter Reed, and Improve Conditions at Defense Medical Facilities Across the Country

Putting Money In Veterans' Pockets:

- ★ Senator Reid Has Routinely Worked to Provide Veterans with an Annual Cost-of-Living Adjustment
- ★ Senator Reid Has Championed Legislation to Provide Full Concurrent Receipt for Nevada Veterans
- ★ Senator Reid is Working with President Obama and the Department of Veterans Affairs to Finally End the Claims Backlog

- ★ Senator Reid Led Passage of the VOW to Hire Heroes Act Providing Tax Credits to Businesses that Hire Veterans and is Currently Fighting to Expand Job Opportunities for Veterans
- ★ Senator Reid Hosted a Veterans Career Fair and Workshop for Over 200 Veterans
- ★ Senator Reid Led Passage of the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill of Rights That Provided the Largest Education Benefits Since World War II to Nevada's Veterans
- ★ Senator Reid Secured Passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act That Provided Filipino Veterans with the Compensation They Earned
- ★ Senator Reid Secured Funding to Assist Homeless Veterans

Honoring the Service of Our Veterans:

- ★ Senator Reid Secured Passage of the Stolen Valor Act
- ★ Senator Reid Worked to Honor Cold War Heroes
- ★ Senator Reid Worked to Provide Federal Retirement Benefits to Air America Pilots
- ★ Senator Reid's Office Provides a Veterans Resource Guide to Help Nevada Veterans Access Services Available to Them

Improving Healthcare for Nevada Veterans:

Senator Reid Secured Funding for the Southern Nevada VA Medical Center and Outpatient Clinics Across the State. In August 2012, the 700,000 square-foot Southern Nevada VA hospital opened its' doors, providing a 90-bed hospital and 120-bed long-term care center. Senator Reid secured over \$600 million for the project and worked with the VA during the entire process to ensure this project came to fruition. This state-of-the-art medical facility provides Nevada veterans with the best healthcare available. In addition, Senator Reid has worked with the Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) Commission on veterans' health to open several Community-Based Outreach Clinics across the Silver State, allowing veterans easier access to the care they need. [H.R. 2673, Senate Vote 444, 11/06/03, Senate Vote 3, 01/22/04, P.L. 108-199; H.R. 2528, Senate Vote 243, 09/22/05, Unanimous Consent, 11/18/05, P.L. 109-114; H.R. 2764, Senate Vote 325, 09/06/07, Senate Votes 439, 440 & 441, 12/18/07, P.L. 110-161; H.R. 4899, Senate Vote 176, 05/27/10, Unanimous Consent, 07/22/10, P.L. 111-212]

Senator Reid Has Rejected Plans to Dramatically Increase TRICARE Premiums. Throughout his time in Congress, Senator Reid has worked tirelessly to protect and improve TRICARE beneficiaries' access to care while keeping payments low. For example, he worked to mandate that the future growth rate for TRICARE enrollment fees does not exceed the military retirement cost-of-living adjustment. In addition, Senator Reid rejected dramatic increases in TRICARE enrollment fees and restored an estimated savings of \$452 million in TRICARE reductions proposed in the Fiscal Year 2013 budget. He also fought to cap future increases for pharmacy co-pays to the annual cost-of-living adjustment. [H.R. 1540, Unanimous Consent, 12/01/11, Senate Vote 230, 12/31/2011, P.L. 112-081; H.R. 4310, Senate Vote 229, 12/21/12, P.L. 112-239]

Senator Reid Helped Pass Legislation Extending Current TRICARE Physician Reimbursement Rates. Senator Reid has long been concerned about physician reimbursement rates under TRICARE. The scheduled pay cuts in the face of skyrocketing health care costs have created an untenable situation for doctors and Medicare beneficiaries alike. On behalf of Nevada's doctors and TRICARE patients, he has always worked hard to strengthen the Medicare and TRICARE programs to make sure that the recipients of these programs receive the care they need and deserve in order to stay healthy. That is why Senator Reid secured passage of a bill to prevent the cuts to TRICARE physicians and extended the current TRICARE payment rates until 2014. [S. 1776, Senate Vote 325, 10/21/09; H.R. 3962, Unanimous Consent, 06/18/10, P.L. 111-192; H.R. 4994, Unanimous Consent, 12/08/10, P.L. 111-309; H.R. 3765, Unanimous Consent, 12/23/11, P.L. 112-078; H.R. 3680, Unanimous Consent, 12/17/11, Senate Vote 22, 02/17/12, P.L. 112-096; H.R. 6570, Unanimous Consent, 11/15/12, P.L. 112-240]

Senator Reid Has Repeatedly Voted to Increase Funding for Veterans' Health Benefits. Senator Reid has been a strong advocate for veterans in Nevada and around the country. During his time as leader, Senator Reid sought to increase funding for veterans' health care programs on numerous occasions, given the increased need to assist troops returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. In 2005, lawmakers learned the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) was short \$1 billion for health care programs. That year, Senator Reid supported an additional \$1.5 billion for veterans' health care. In 2006, he supported a spending bill that boosted veterans' health programs by \$2.9 billion for Fiscal Year 2007. For Fiscal Year 2008, Senator Reid further augmented the budget for veterans' health programs by over \$2 billion, bringing the total to \$37.2 billion. Though the Bush Administration was reluctant to fully fund veterans' health benefits for Fiscal Year 2009, Senator Reid fought for \$41 billion for veterans' health programs, \$4.1 billion more than the prior year, and \$1.8 billion more than the Administration requested. Senator Reid ushered the *Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act* through Congress. Signed into law by President

Obama on May 5, 2010, this bill fulfills the VA's obligation to the nation's wounded veterans by providing their caregivers with training, counseling, support, and a living stipend. Moreover, it expands veterans' health services in rural areas, ensures that veterans who are catastrophically disabled or who need emergency care in the community are not inappropriately charged for those services, and improves veterans' access to mental health care. For Fiscal Year 2010, Senator Reid continued his long-standing tradition of providing increased funding to our veterans, increasing veterans' health benefits by 7.4 percent to \$45.1 billion. For Fiscal Year 2011, Senator Reid provided \$48.6 billion for veterans' health program, increasing the budget by 7.8 percent. Recognizing the increasing demands on the veterans' health system, he fought to provide \$51.2 billion for veterans' health programs, an increase of 5.3 percent. And in Fiscal Year 2013, despite a challenging budget environment, Senator Reid stood up for veterans and provided \$53.3 billion for veterans' health programs, an increase of 2 percent. Senator Reid has a proven track record in providing the health care our veterans need and will continue to do so well into the future. [H.R. 2361, Senate Vote 168, 06/29/05, Senate Vote 210, 07/29/05, P.L. 109-054; H.R. 5385, Voice Vote, 11/14/06; H.R. 2642, Senate Vote 316, 09/06/07, Senate Votes 136, 137 & 138, 05/22/08, Senate Vote 162, 06/26/08, P.L. 110-252; H.R. 2638, Senate Vote 282, 07/26/07, Senate Vote 208, 09/27/08, P.L. 110-329; H.R. 3288, Senate Vote 374, 12/13/09, P.L. 111-117; S. 1963, Senate Vote 352, 11/19/09, P.L. 111-163; H.R. 1473, Senate Vote 61, 04/14/11, P.L. 112-010; H.R. 2055, Senate Vote 115, 07/20/11, Senate Vote 235, 12/17/11, P.L. 112-074; H.R. 933, Senate Vote 44, 03/20/13, P.L. 113-006]

Senator Reid Worked Tirelessly to Expand Care for America's Wounded Warriors, Fix Shortfalls in Care at Walter Reed, and Improve Conditions at Defense Medical Facilities Across the Country. Over the years, Senator Reid has worked to expand care to our wounded military heroes. He also led the fight to fix shortfalls in care at Walter Reed and improve conditions at defense medical facilities across the country.

- *Senator Reid Worked to Expand Care for Our Wounded Military Heroes.* In 2007, Senator Reid led the Senate in passing the *Dignified Treatment of Wounded Warriors Act*, a measure that was later added to the *National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008*. This legislation included provisions to improve disability and mental health care for wounded soldiers and was instrumental in easing the transition from the battlefield to recovery. This law also established a Wounded Warrior Resource Center for service members, required the Secretary of Defense and Secretary of the VA to develop a comprehensive policy on the care and management of service members, including the development of interoperable electronic health records, and most importantly, required a comprehensive policy to address traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder, other mental health conditions, and military eye injuries. Furthermore, he was proud to lead passage of the *Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act* in 2009. This sweeping legislation, which President Obama signed into law, provides unprecedented levels of support for caregivers of seriously injured veterans, veterans in rural areas, female veterans, and homeless veterans. The law fulfills the VA's obligation to the nation's wounded veterans by providing their caregivers with training, counseling, support, and a living stipend; expands services in rural areas; ensures that veterans who are catastrophically disabled or who need emergency care in the community are not inappropriately charged for those services; and improves veterans' access to mental health care. [H.R. 1538, Unanimous Consent, 07/25/07; H.R. 4986, Senate Vote 1, 01/22/08, P.L. 110-181; S. 1963, Senate Vote 352, Unanimous Consent, 04/22/10, P.L. 111-163]
- *Senator Reid Helped Lead the Fight to Fix the Shortfalls in Care at Walter Reed and Improve Conditions at Defense Medical Facilities Across the Country.* Senator Reid has worked to provide our active-duty, reserve, and retired service members with the quality health care they deserve.

He supported providing \$3 billion in Fiscal Year 2007 emergency funding for military health care – \$1.9 billion above the amount requested by the Bush Administration – to address shortfalls in care at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and to make critical investments in military hospitals around the country. Senator Reid has also consistently backed efforts to bolster funding for the defense health program, supporting an additional \$918 million in Fiscal Year 2008 funding, an additional \$1.6 billion in Fiscal Year 2009, and an additional \$307 million in Fiscal Year 2010.

[H.R. 5122, Unanimous Consent, 06/22/06, Unanimous Consent, 09/30/06, P.L. 109-364; H.R. 3222, Voice Vote, 10/03/07, Voice Vote, 11/08/07, P.L. 110-116; H.R. 2647, Unanimous Consent, 07/23/09, Senate Vote 327, 10/22/09, P.L. 111-084]

Putting Money In Veterans' Pockets:

Senator Reid Has Routinely Worked to Provide Veterans With an Annual Cost-of-Living Adjustment.

Senator Reid has always supported the Veteran's Compensation Cost-of-Living bill so that Nevada veterans can keep up with the rising cost-of-living. Through Senator Reid's efforts, and despite Republican opposition, he secured passage of the *Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act* in 2012, providing nearly 4 million veterans and their survivors with a 1.7 percent cost-of-living adjustment in order to keep pace with inflation. [H.R. 1683, Unanimous Consent, 11/21/03, P.L. 108-147; H.R. 4175, Unanimous Consent, 10/05/04, P.L. 108-363; S. 1234, Unanimous Consent, 11/16/05, P.L. 109-111; S. 2562, Unanimous Consent, 09/21/06, P.L. 109-361; H.R. 1284, Unanimous Consent, 10/18/07, P.L. 110-111; S. 2617, Unanimous Consent, 07/30/08, P.L. 110-324; S. 407, Unanimous Consent, 06/10/09, P.L. 111-037; H.R. 4667, Unanimous Consent, 09/22/10, P.L. 111-247; S. 894, Unanimous Consent, 10/19/11, P.L. 112-053; H.R. 4114, Unanimous Consent, 11/13/12, P.L. 112-198]

Senator Reid Has Championed Legislation to Provide Full Concurrent Receipt for Nevada Veterans.

In 2003, Senator Reid passed legislation that enacted a 10-year phase-in period of concurrent receipt for military retirees whose disability is 50 percent or greater. In 2013, the phase-in period will finally come to fruition. In 2005, he eliminated the 10-year waiting period for those veterans with a 100 percent service-related disability. In 2008, concurrent receipt eligibility was expanded to include those who are 100 percent disability due to unemployability and extended equivalent financial payments to those who are medically retired or have retired prematurely due to force reduction programs. In 2012, Senator Reid offered an amendment to the *National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013* ensuring that our combat-disabled military retirees receive proper combat-related disability and retirements by eliminating the "glitch" in the CRSC formula that can actually cause a reduction in their compensation amount when the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) increases their disability rating. Senator Reid will continue to champion legislation to finally provide full concurrent receipt for all veterans. [S. 392, Introduced 02/13/03; S. Amdt. 341 to S.Con.Res. 23, Voice Vote, 03/25/03; S.Con.Res. 23, Senate Vote 108, 03/26/03; H.Con.Res. 95, Unanimous Consent, 03/26/03, Senate Vote 134, 04/11/03; S.Amdt. 697 to S. 1050, Introduced 05/19/03; S.Amdt. 848 to H.R. 1588, Voice Vote, 06/04/03; H.R. 1588, Senate Vote 447, 11/12/03, P.L. 108-136; S. 558, Introduced 03/08/05; S. 845, Introduced 04/20/05; S.Amdt. 361 to H.R. 1268, Voice Vote, 04/14/05; H.R. 1268, Senate Vote 117, 05/10/05, P.L. 109-013; S.Amdt. 2441 to S. 1042, Voice Vote, 11/08/05; S. 1042, Senate Vote 326, 11/15/05; H.R. 1815, Voice Vote, 12/21/06, P.L. 109-163; S.Amdt. 4197 to S. 2766, Unanimous Consent, 06/22/06; S. 2766, Senate Vote 186, 06/22/06; S. 439, Introduced 05/08/07; S.Amdt. 2925 to H.R. 1585, Unanimous Consent, 09/27/07; H.R. 1585, Senate Vote 433, 12/14/07; H.R. 4986, Senate Vote 1, 01/22/08, P.L. 110-181; S.Amdt. 4162 to S.Con.Res. 70, Unanimous Consent, 03/13/08; S.Con.Res. 70, Senate Vote 142, 06/04/08; S. 546, Introduced 03/09/09; S. 344, Introduced 02/14/11; S.AMDT.1128 to S.1867, Submitted 11/17/11; S.AMDT.1131 to S.1867, Submitted 11/17/11; S.Amdt. 3047 to S. 3254, Unanimous Consent, 12/03/12; S. 3254, Senate Vote 221, 12/04/12; S.Amdt. 3332 to H.R. 4310, Unanimous Consent, 12/12/12; H.R. 4310, Senate Vote 229, 12/21/12, P.L. 112-239; S. 234, Introduced 02/07/13]

Senator Reid is Working with President Obama and the Department of Veterans Affairs to Finally End the Claims Backlog. Senator Reid believes that the VA claims backlog is unacceptable and must be eliminated. He has been actively working with President Obama, the VA, and officials at the Reno VA Regional Office to ensure that claims are adjudicated quicker. To help, he supported legislation in 2008 that provided \$100 million to hire 1,400 claims related personnel. In 2009, he provided \$150 million to hire temporary claims processing personnel. In 2010, he supported legislation that provided \$460 million to hire 4,048 additional claims processing personnel. Senator Reid supports President Obama's plan to end the claims backlog by 2015 and will continue to push the VA so that this goal is met. [H.R. 2638, Senate Vote 282, 07/26/07, Senate Vote 208, 09/27/08, P.L. 110-329; H.R. 1, Senate Vote 61, 02/10/09, Senate Vote 64, 02/13/09, P.L. 111-005; S.Rept. 111-226 to S. 3615, Ordered to be printed 07/19/10; S.Rept. 112-029 to H.R. 2055, Ordered to be Printed 06/30/11; H.R. 2055, Senate Vote 115, 07/20/11, Senate Vote 235, P.L. 112-074; Reid, Heller, Heck, Titus, and Horsford Letter to VA Undersecretary for Benefits Alison Hickey and Reno VA Regional Office Director Edward Russell, 04/18/13]

Senator Reid Led Passage of the VOW to Hire Heroes Act Providing Tax Credits to Businesses that Hire Veterans and is Currently Fighting to Expand Job Opportunities for Veterans. Unemployment is an issue facing all Americans, especially Nevadans, but veteran unemployment numbers are routinely higher than the national average. To combat this problem, Senator Reid secured passage of the *VOW to Hire Heroes* amendment that provides a tax credit for businesses that hire veterans. It also makes the Transition Assistance program (TAP) an interagency workshop coordinated by Departments of Defense, Labor and Veterans Affairs, mandatory for service members moving on to civilian life to help them secure 21st Century jobs through resumé writing workshops and career counseling. Senator Reid has also introduced legislation during the current Congress to extend these programs for years to come, while also increasing loans to veteran-owned small businesses. Putting veterans back to work is a key priority of Senator Reid's and he will continue to champion legislation to address this issue. [S.Amdt. 927 to H.R. 674, Senate Vote 203, 11/10/11; H.R. 674, Senate Vote 204, 11/10/11, P.L. 112-056; S. 6, Introduced 01/22/13]

Senator Reid Hosted a Veterans Career Fair and Workshop for Over 200 Veterans. The staff from Senator Reid's Las Vegas office joined the UNLV Office of Career Services in hosting the university's first-ever Veterans Job Fair and Workshop. Over 200 veterans gained access to resources to help them in their job search including workshops on resume building, interviewing skills, how to apply for G.I. Bill benefits, and how to enter the job-hunting process with the right mindset. Many of the nearly 90 employers, ranging from large corporations to small businesses, attended the Job Fair portion of the event in hopes of taking advantage of tax credits for hiring unemployed veterans. [Las Vegas Sun, 06/15/13]

Senator Reid Led Passage of the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill of Rights That Provided the Largest Education Benefits Since World War II to Nevada's Veterans. Senator Reid has always fought to provide the pay and benefits our brave service members and veterans have earned and deserve. One of these benefits is access to higher education. As somebody whose life was transformed by education, Senator Reid understands the important role it can play in bettering the lives of service members and veterans. That is why, during the 110th Congress, he was proud to be a cosponsor of Senator Jim Webb's (D-VA) original legislation, the *Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2007*, on which the new G.I. Bill is based. Under his leadership, the G.I. Bill was enacted into law in 2008, giving our returning soldiers the opportunity to receive a higher education and fuel our future economy. Senator Reid was also an ardent supporter of the G.I. Bill 2.0, officially known as the *Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Improvements Act of 2010* that was enacted in January 2011. The G.I. Bill 2.0 gives the new generation of veterans the opportunity to receive full in-state tuition at public institutions and up to \$17,500 in tuition at private or foreign institutions of higher learning. Furthermore, the

G.I. Bill 2.0 ensures that our National Guard Soldiers and veterans are eligible and receive credit for time served on Title 32 or in the full-time Active Guard and Reserve (AGR). Soldiers and veterans will also be able to transfer G.I. Bill 2.0 benefits to their spouse or children. [S. 22, Introduced 01/04/07; H.R. 2642, Senate Vote 137, 05/22/08, Senate Vote 162, 06/26/08, P.L. 110-252; S. 3447, Unanimous Consent, 12/13/10, P.L. 111-377]

Senator Reid Secured Passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act That Provided Filipino Veterans with the Compensation They Earned. During World War II, the U.S. received support from the organized military forces of the Philippines and the Philippine Scouts. However, because the Philippines was a U.S. territory, these brave men were denied pensions and other military benefits offered to the American service members who they fought alongside. In order to combat this injustice, Senator Reid cosponsored the *Filipino Veterans Equity Act* and lead passage of the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act*, which included a provision to provide one-time compensation to Filipino World War II veterans who fought on behalf of the United States. He has also cosponsored legislation that amends the *Immigration and Nationality Act* to exempt numerical limitations on immigrants' visas to the sons and daughters of Filipino World War II veterans. Senator Reid's work on behalf of Filipino veterans was recognized by Filipino President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo who awarded him with the Order of the Golden Heart Award in 2008. [S. 57, Introduced 01/04/07; H.R. 1, Senate Vote 61, 02/06/09, Senate Vote 64, 02/13/09, P.L. 111-005; S. 671, Introduced 02/16/07; S. 1258, Introduced 06/22/11; S. 461, Introduced 03/05/13]

Senator Reid Secured Funding to Assist Homeless Veterans. Senator Reid believes no veteran should ever be homeless, which is why he has been working tirelessly to help eliminate this terrible problem. To that end, since 2010, Senator Reid has helped Nevada receive more than \$5.6 million from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing Program (HUD-VASH). The program provides funding to local public housing agencies to provide rental assistance and case management for our veterans. During that time the City of Reno Housing Authority received \$1,121,227 and the Southern Nevada Regional Housing Authority received \$4,514,503. Senator Reid was also proud to support the VA Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program, which awarded \$4 million to Nevada organizations throughout the state in 2011 and 2012 to help very low-income veterans and their families find permanent housing and \$411,280 for the United States Veterans Initiative through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as part of the 2013 Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Program. Senator Reid will continue to work to take care of Nevada veterans who have fought so hard to protect our freedom. [<https://federalregister.gov/a/2011-19117>; <https://federalregister.gov/a/2012-3834>; HUD Press Release, 03/27/12; HUD Press Release, 05/29/13]

Honoring the Service of Our Veterans:

Senator Reid Secured Passage of the Stolen Valor Act. In 2005, Senator Reid cosponsored and was proud to vote for the *Stolen Valor Act*, which prohibited wearing, manufacturing, or selling military decorations or medals without legal authorization. It also prohibited falsely representing oneself as having been awarded any decoration or medal. However, this law was overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2012. Believing we should honor those who have truly served our nation, Senator Reid led passage of the *Stolen Valor Act of 2013*, which makes it a crime to knowingly benefit from lying about receiving various medal and awards and is fully compliant with the Supreme Court decision. [S. 1998, Unanimous Consent, 09/07/06, P.L. 109-437; H.R. 258, Unanimous Consent, 05/22/13, P.L. 113-012]

Senator Reid Worked to Honor Cold War Heroes. The Cold War is a period of great importance in the history of our democracy. In the face of the Soviet threat, brave Americans made significant sacrifices to protect the United States. Regrettably, those who gave their lives in the Cold War have never been properly honored. Perhaps no state in the Union played a more significant role than Nevada in winning the Cold War. Of the 1,149 nuclear detonations conducted by the U.S. as part of the nuclear testing program, 1,021 were performed at the Nevada Test Site. Many Nevadans sacrificed their lives for our country during the Cold War, and Nevada continues to bear the cost of the Cold War effort. That is why, in 2009, Senator Reid secured passage of the Cold War Historical Sites Study Act, which requires the Department of the Interior to evaluate sites and resources for commemorating and interpreting the Cold War, including the Mount Charleston Plane Crash Memorial. This legislation will help provide long-due recognition by commemorating the heroes of the Cold War and teaching future generations about this period of American history. [S. 1257, Introduced 07/27/01; H.R. 146, Senate Vote 106, 03/19/09, P.L. 111-011]

Senator Reid Worked to Provide Federal Retirement Benefits to Air America Pilots. Air America was a top-secret passenger and cargo airline owned and operated by the Central Intelligence Agency during the Cold War. Despite accepting high-risk missions in the service of our government – 86 Air America pilots and crew members were killed in action – the veterans of Air America have been denied federal retirement benefits. This is why Senator Reid introduced the *Air America Veterans Act*. He was able to include this legislation in the *Department of Defense Authorization Act* for 2010, beginning the process of providing Air America veterans with federal retirement benefits by requiring the Director of National Intelligence to determine who would be eligible. A report on Air America operations, pay and benefits was submitted to Congress in the Fall of 2011. The report highlights some of the unrivaled actions taken by these quiet heroes during the Vietnam. Although the report is not favorable in recommending federal retirement benefits for this small group of dedicated, American patriots, Senator Reid will continue to seek ways to work towards the ultimate goal of providing such benefits to these Americans who carried out remarkable actions for the freedoms that all we all enjoy today. [S. 1126, Introduced 05/21/09; S.Amdt. 1476 to S. 1390, Unanimous Consent, 07/23/09, Senate Vote 242, 07/23/09, Conference Report, Record Vote 327, P.L. 111-084]u

Senator Reid’s Office Provides a Veterans Resource Guide to Help Nevada Veterans Access Services Available to Them. With one of the fastest growing veterans’ communities in the nation, the Silver State is home to more than 339,000 veterans and this number will continue to grow in the future. Senator Reid believes that when our troops return home, it is our duty to repay their service by ensuring they have access to medical care and the resources they need to transition back to civilian life. As part of these efforts, Senator Reid’s staff has created a “Veterans Resource Guide” that provides veterans and their families with key information about federal, state, and community-based programs. A copy of this guide is available online at reid.senate.gov, or you may request a copy of the guide by contacting one of Senator Reid’s offices. Should you need any additional information on programs or issues covered in this guide, or if you have any problems with your government benefits, please feel free to contact his Las Vegas or Reno offices for assistance. [Nevada Office of Veterans Services]

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